

program. I urge my colleagues to pay attention to the introduction of this bill. It will be significant.

THE SPIRIT OF COMPETITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHILLING) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in the spirit of competition, in support of American workers and as an advocate for a government that seeks to provide economic certainty for the businesses that create jobs in this country.

Last night, the House voted on bipartisan trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. These agreements represent an opportunity to compete, grow jobs, and promote American exports.

Here is what we know: Ninety-five percent of the world's customers live outside this great country. Here is another thing: If America gives itself the opportunity to compete with other countries, like these three agreements will, American manufacturers and farmers will deliver, and we will all win. Job creation is red, white, and blue. It's definitely a red, white, and blue issue, and that is why you saw both Democrats and Republicans coming together yesterday to provide this opportunity for American exports to compete.

In the 17th District of Illinois, which I represent, I recently visited a company that makes the big mining trucks, and 80 percent of those trucks ship outside of the United States of America. This company employs 3,000 workers, which is equal to supplying jobs to 2,400 of those. These jobs are dependent upon exports. The same company also manufactures bulldozers. Eight out of 10 of those are sold to buyers from overseas. Yet again, this is an example of jobs being created because of the demand for American products by customers in a global economy.

These trade agreements will reduce tariffs on goods and will remove barriers that are currently in place. By leveling the playing field for our manufacturers and farmers, we can further promote these cornerstones of the American economy. We need to enact these policies that strengthen our manufacturing base, which is why I am cosponsoring legislation offered by my colleague and friend DAN LIPINSKI that will pave the way for our national manufacturing strategy.

Three million manufacturing jobs and almost 4 million ag jobs are dependent upon U.S. exports. The independent U.S. International Trade Commission estimates that these agreements will increase American-made exports by \$13 billion and inject \$10 billion into our GDP. President Obama estimates that these jobs could create a quarter of a million jobs. According to the Congressional Research Service, the last time the United States signed a trade agreement was back in 2006 with Peru.

These three trade agreements the House passed last night could have been sent to Congress back in 2009. Every day we delay is a day we deny American workers job opportunities to compete. These trade agreements aren't about rhetoric. They are about results. We cannot afford to sit on the sidelines anymore while other countries enter into trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea, causing us to lose more of the market share. Again, I support these free trade agreements. If as a country we are allowed to compete, I know we will deliver.

RECOGNIZING MARCIA JO ZERIVITZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I rise today to honor the achievements of Marcia Jo Zerivitz, the founding executive director and chief curator of the Jewish Museum of Florida.

Marcia has been a leader in the organized Florida Jewish community for more than 40 years. Originally from West Virginia, she has been a leader in Jewish organizations since her work with Hillel during her college years. Since the 1970s, Marcia has held various leadership roles within organizations such as Israel Bonds, AIPAC, ORT, and Hadassah.

Throughout her lifetime, Marcia has broken the glass ceiling as the first woman in many positions, including as president of the Greater Orlando Jewish Federation. She is one of the first women nationally to hold this office. She was also the first woman to chair the Florida Association of Jewish Federations Conference in 1979. In 1993, Marcia guided the restoration of an abandoned 1936 art deco building on Miami Beach, which served as an Orthodox synagogue for 50 years, and she opened the Jewish Museum of Florida in 1995.

She led the effort to get the museum accredited and has presented more than 50 exhibits in 15 years. The museum, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, has collected, preserved, and interpreted the Jewish experience in Florida since at least 1763, when Jews were first allowed to live in the State.

In 2003, she initiated State legislation for a Florida Jewish History Month, which is now recognized each January. Then in 2005, Marcia and members of Miami's Jewish community approached me with the idea to designate a month to honor the contributions that American Jews have made to our Nation. As a result, I was the proud sponsor of the Jewish American Heritage Month resolution, which the House and Senate unanimously passed in 2006 and which has been proclaimed by President Bush and President Obama annually since then.

Marcia Zerivitz should take great pride in knowing that Jewish American Heritage Month, which is now celebrated across our Nation each May, began with her work at the Jewish Museum of Florida.

I am honored to recognize Marcia Jo Zerivitz for the positive impact that she has made, not just on Florida's Jewish community but on communities across our Nation. I wish her well on her retirement, and I thank her for enriching the lives of countless others in the Jewish community and around the country.

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YUCCA MOUNTAIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor a second time, as I promised a couple of weeks ago, to talk about high-level nuclear waste in the Yucca Mountain repository.

Two weeks ago I highlighted Hanford, Washington, a DOE site that has 53 million gallons of nuclear waste—53 million gallons of nuclear waste that's stored 10 feet underground in tanks that are leaking. The waste is 250 feet above the water table and the waste is 1 mile from the Columbia River, versus Federal law which said in 1982 that Yucca Mountain should be our national repository.

Now let's look at Yucca Mountain. Right now there's no nuclear waste on site. The waste would be stored a thousand feet underground. The waste is a thousand feet above the water table, and the waste would be 100 miles from the Colorado River; 100 miles versus 1 mile, high-level nuclear waste, especially with Hanford where you have nuclear waste that actually is leaking outside the tanks.

So then my response was: What are the Senators in these two States doing and what's their position? The reason why we're not moving to Yucca Mountain is because of one U.S. Senator, the majority leader of the Senate, HARRY REID, who has blocked the movement of Yucca Mountain.

Obviously, these Senators have an interest because of the Columbia River, and I was trying to encourage them, through the use of the bully pulpit, that this was a time to move to get this resolution resolved, especially after Fukushima Daiichi, everybody following the tragedy in Japan, and part of that was high-level nuclear waste in storage ponds right on site.

Since then, I have been able to get a few quotes from these Senators, or researched them. Senator CANTWELL said: "The National Academy of Sciences has concluded that the best approach is to bury nuclear waste deep underground. Since that conclusion, Yucca Mountain in Nevada has been chosen as the national repository."

Senator MURRAY said this: "I believe that it is irresponsible for the Department of Energy to discontinue the